

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Withdrawn) An epithelial cell growth promoter which comprises at least one selected from water-soluble oligopeptides having 3 to 7 amino acid units containing a prolyl-isoleucyl-glycyl unit or an isoleucyl-glycyl-seryl unit as an active ingredient, or a water-soluble salt thereof.

14. (Withdrawn) The epithelial cell growth promoter according to claim 13, wherein the water-soluble oligopeptide is prolyl-isoleucyl-glycine.

15. (Withdrawn) The epithelial cell growth promoter according to claim 13, wherein the water-soluble oligopeptide is isoleucyl-glycyl-serine.

16. (Withdrawn) The epithelial cell growth promoter according to claim 13, wherein the water-soluble oligopeptide comprises a prolyl-isoleucyl-glycyl unit and a glycyl unit or a seryl unit.

17. (Withdrawn) The epithelial cell growth promoter according to claim 16, wherein the water-soluble oligopeptide is glycyl-prolyl-isoleucyl-glycine.

18. (Withdrawn) The epithelial cell growth promoter according to claim 16, wherein the water-soluble oligopeptide is prolyl-isoleucyl-glycyl-serine.

19. (Withdrawn) The epithelial cell growth promoter according to claim 13, wherein the water-soluble oligopeptide is an oligopeptide comprising a glycyl-prolyl-isoleucyl-glycyl unit and a seryl unit or a threonyl unit.

20. (Withdrawn) The epithelial cell growth promoter according to claim 19, wherein the water-soluble oligopeptide is glycyl-prolyl-isoleucyl-glycyl-serine.

21. (Withdrawn) The epithelial cell growth promoter according to claim 19, wherein the water-soluble oligopeptide is glycyl-prolyl-isoleucyl-glycyl-threonine.

22. (Withdrawn) The epithelial cell growth promoter according to claim 13, which is used for hair growth.

23. (Withdrawn) The epithelial cell growth promoter according to claims 22, which is used for hair growth and active in the telogen phase of a hair cycle.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Withdrawn) A water-soluble oligopeptide having 3 to 7 amino acid units containing an isoleucyl-glycyl-seryl unit, wherein the oligopeptide is isoleucyl-glycyl-serine, or a water-soluble salt thereof.

26-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) A water-soluble oligopeptide having 5 amino acid units ~~oligopeptide consisting of~~ glycyl-prolyl-isoleucyl-glycyl-Xserine ~~wherein X is serine~~ [SEQ ID NO: 3] or ~~threonine~~ glycyl-prolyl-isoleucyl-glycyl-threonine [SEQ ID NO: 4], or a water-soluble salt thereof.

29. (Currently amended) The water-soluble oligopeptide according to claim 28, wherein the oligopeptide is glycyl-prolyl-isoleucyl-glycyl-serine [SEQ ID NO: 3], or a water-soluble salt thereof.

30. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The water-soluble ~~oligo~~peptide according to claim 28, wherein the ~~oligo~~peptide is glycyl-prolyl-isoleucyl-glycyl-threonine [SEQ ID NO: 4], or a water-soluble salt thereof.